Learning Conversation Notes	
Name of Partner:	Date: 03-23-2005
Placer Multi-Disciplinary Interview Center	
Number of Children Served:	Ages: 0 -1 yr (11), 2 yr (9),
93 total, 0-5 yr 58	3 yr (10), 4 yr (14), 5 yr (14)
When Served:	Gender: Ethnicity:
07-01-2004 To Present	39-Male 41 - Caucasian
	19-Female 1 - East Indian
	11 – Hispanic
	3 – Asian
	2 – Native American

Conversation Participants: Fiona Tuttle, Bob McDonald - Commissioner, Jan Dunn, Dolleen Toms, Don Ferretti, Nancy Baggett, Michael Romero

Outcomes:

- As a result of involvement in the Multi-Disciplinary Interview Center (MDIC) process, children's trauma is reduced, and families are supported.
- Sustain the team that utilizes the MDIC interview process.

Performance Measures:

- 1. Demographics (age, gender and when services were provided)
- 2. Follow up survey to measure degree of family support and child well being.
- **3.** Number of children who had to be re-interviewed by members of the investigation team after the initial interview.
- **4.** Follow-up contact with the victim and family after their interview to identify number of resources within the county that were utilized for the child.
- **5.** Dispositions of cases.
- **6.** Interviews conducted at MDIC, listed by referring agencies.
- 7. Summary of participants at monthly team meetings

What is this data telling us about achievement of outcomes?

There is a high percentage of children in the 0-5 age group

The 3-5 age group is most vulnerable. All of the cases are felonies rather than misdemeanors

For the 0-1 age group, interviews are conducted by questioning CPS, caregivers, and siblings

Since July 1, 2004 the majority of the children interviewed have been boys.

Of the 0-5 children interviewed, none were re-interviewed so that the children would not be traumatized repeatedly. The interviews are video taped to help capture all the information. If a child needs to be re-interviewed, the same person would conduct the interview to reduce the trauma.

What is this data telling us about achievement of outcomes? (Con't)

Since July 1, 2004, the District Attorneys office accepted 26 cases, 33 cases were declined, and 22 cases are still pending. The fact that more cases are accepted or pending rather than declined is encouraging

Unnecessary exposure to system trauma is reduced regardless whether the cases are accepted or declined by the DAs office

40% of MDIC cases are referred by the Placer County Sheriff's Office.

Law enforcement is encouraged not to do the initial interview at the time of intervention. They know MDIC will conduct the interview with all the necessary parties. It strengthens the cases to get a good account from the victim in the report. Each interview will include the deputy DA, law enforcement, CPS, county council, child interview specialist, victim services, and sometimes SART.

MDIC conducts quarterly trainings and monthly team meetings. The meetings are well attended by many agencies. There is consistent representation for sustainability

In August 2004, MDIC was accredited by the National Children's Alliance. This made them eligible for funds from the Alliance in the amount of \$10,000+ per year. Accreditation was achieved with no recommendations for changes.

Follow-up survey: (29) of the families involved children 0-5. 14 of the 29 families were successfully contacted. 64% described the child's well being as positive, 14% (2) described as neutral. 3 families described as on-going custody issues, as well as one child still having nightmares as a result of the abuse

12 of 14 families had participated in some type of resource (s)

64% of the parents stated they were somewhat to very comfortable after their child's interview

Post survey responses indicate 74% of the children felt comfortable after their interview (as reported by the parents)

Families rarely participate in VOC Applications

Parents reported their children feel very comfortable and supported for their disclosure at MDIC

Families feel supported at MDIC but later feel frustrated by the system once they leave

In what ways will we apply what we have learned from our data?

MDIC is able to identify families from the follow-up surveys who need additional support. They will work with victim services to develop more timely strategies for follow-up

It would be helpful to develop an evaluation tool for the children after their interview. Look at the instrument Alameda County uses.

Other points that were made during the conversation:

Recent media coverage is making the community more aware that these incidents must be reported. Parents are reluctant to report abuse incidents to keep their child out of court.

Some parents have themselves been abused, and have had little outside intervention.

These cases are extremely difficult to take to trial (win). There are usually no witnesses. However more cases are being tried now than even 10 years ago.

The majority of criminal prosecutions were successful without requiring the children to testify in court

In 2004, Only 1% of the sexual assaults were by strangers

Funding is provided by a variety of agencies and sources who participate in the program

Posting of a resident sex offender in the neighborhood has brought out 3 cases in Placer County

80% of MDIC cases are sexual abuse cases

There is a major focus of child advocacy for 0-5 children in the area of child abuse

It would be invaluable for MDIC to maintain an on staff advocate to maintain contact with the family, especially as early as one month after the interview

Next Steps:

Next learning conversation to be held in November 2005

Work to get post surveys completed in a more timely fashion (within one to two months)

Have core steering committee at the next learning conversation